IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 1-17, 19, 21-60, 77-92, 96-100, 102, and 104-105 as follows.

Please **ADD** claims 106-113 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, network element comprising:

a monitoring unitmonitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a end element support node; and

a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said end elementsupport node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring unitmonitor,

wherein the network elementapparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the end element support node.

the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

2. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus</u> network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter comprises user activity, and <u>wherein</u> said network element<u>apparatus</u> is configured to release said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time.

- 3. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 2, wherein said <u>network elementapparatus</u> is <u>further configured</u> to release the connection between the <u>network elementapparatus</u> and said mobile station dependent solely on the user activity monitored by said <u>monitoring unitmonitor</u>.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u>-as claimed in claim 2, wherein said <u>network elementapparatus</u> is <u>further configured</u> to send a message to the <u>end elementsupport node</u> indicating that said connection has been released.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 1, wherein said <u>network elementapparatus</u> is <u>further configured</u> to send a request for the connection to be released to said mobile station.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 5, wherein the <u>end-elementsupport node is configured to send sends</u> a connection release command to said <u>network element apparatus</u> in response to the release request received by said <u>network elementapparatus</u>, <u>and wherein said network element controlling apparatus is further configured to control the release of said connection.</u>

- 7. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 6, wherein said <u>apparatus network element</u> is <u>further configured</u> to send a release request to said mobile station in response to the release command received from said end elementsupport node.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 7, wherein said <u>apparatus network element</u> is <u>further configured</u> to send a message to said end elementsupport node advising that the connection has been released.
- 9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, network element comprising:

<u>a monitor monitoring means for monitoring configured to monitor at least one</u> parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a end element support node; and

determining means a determining unit configured to determine for determining if the connection between said end element support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitormeans for monitoring,

wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and

wherein said determining unit is further configured to determine means determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring means monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time, and

wherein the network elementapparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node element and the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

- 10. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u>-as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the type of traffic for which the connection is intended.
- 11. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the quality of service profile of the traffic for which the connection is intended.
- 12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, network element comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node end element; and

determining means for determining a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said end element sand support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means,

wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and

wherein said determining means—unit is further configured to determine if the

connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said

monitoring meansmonitor, and

wherein the network elementapparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node element and the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, network element comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a end element support node; and

determining means for determining a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said end elementsupport node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring meansmonitor,

wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means unit is <u>further</u> configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means monitor, and

wherein the network elementapparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node element and the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

- 14. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 13, wherein the <u>an</u> amount of updating information received in a given time from the mobile station is used as a measure of the movement of the mobile station.
- 15. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 14, wherein said updating information comprises <u>universal mobile telecommunication systems</u> terrestrial radio access network registration area URA-updates.
- 16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, network element comprising:

monitoring means for monitoringa monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node end element; and

determining means for determining a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said end elementsupport node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means monitor,

wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means—unit is <u>further</u> configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring meansmonitor, and

wherein the network elementapparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node, end element and the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

17. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u>-as claimed in claim 16, wherein said at least one parameter comprises associations of the mobile station with different <u>apparatus network elements</u>, and said determining <u>means unit being further</u> <u>configured to determine determines</u> that the connection should be released if said <u>monitoring means monitor</u> indicates that the mobile station is associated with a different <u>apparatus network element</u>.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A <u>cellular communications network</u>, comprising:

A<u>an apparatus</u> network element-as claimed in claim 1, a mobile station and an end element<u>a support node.</u>

- 20. (Cancelled)
- 21. (Currently Amended) The network cellular communications network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said end elementsupport node is SGSNa serving general packet radio service support node.
- 22. (Currently Amended) The <u>network_cellular communications network</u> as claimed in claim 19, wherein said network operates in accordance with <u>a universal mobile</u> telecommunication systems standard.the <u>UMTS Standard</u>.
- 23. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said network elementapparatus is further configured to send a message to the end elementsupport node indicating that said connection has been released.
- 24. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the

determined that the connection is to be released if said monitoring means monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

- 25. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unitmonitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.
- 26. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unitmonitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.
- 27. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unitmonitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

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- 28. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unitmonitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.
- 29. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unitmonitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.
- 30. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unitmonitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.
- 31. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said

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determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmonitor.

- 32. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmonitor.
- 33. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmonitor.
- 34. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmonitor.
- 35. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said

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determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmonitor.

- 36. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmonitor.
- 37. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmonitor.
- 38. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring meansmonitor.
- 39. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said

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determining means is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring meansmonitor.

- 40. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means monitor.
- 41. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmonitor.
- 42. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmonitor.
- 43. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said

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determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmonitor.

- 44. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmonitor.
- 45. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit monitor.
- 46. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmonitor.
- 47. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said

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determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmonitor.

- 48. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means—unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring meansmonitor.
- 49. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means—unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring meansmonitor.
- 50. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining <u>means unit</u> is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said <u>monitoring</u> <u>means</u>monitor.

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- 51. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitormonitoring unit</u>.
- 52. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitormonitoring unit</u>.
- 53. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitormonitoring unit</u>.
- 54. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitormonitoring unit</u>.

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55. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitormonitoring unit</u>.

56. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitormonitoring unit</u>.

- 57. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitormonitoring unit</u>.
- 58. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining <u>means-unit</u> is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitormonitoring means</u>.

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59. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining <u>means</u> unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitor monitoring means</u>.

60. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus network element</u> as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining <u>means_unit</u> is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said <u>monitormonitoring means</u>.

61-76. (Cancelled)

77. (Currently Amended) A network cellular communications network, comprising:

a<u>n apparatus</u> network element as claimed in claim 2, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

78. (Currently Amended) A network cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 3, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

79. (Currently Amended) A network cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus network element-as claimed in claim 4, a mobile station and an end element-a support node.

80. (Currently Amended) A network cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus network element-as claimed in claim 5, a mobile station and an end element-a support node.

81. (Currently Amended) A network cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 6, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

82. (Currently Amended) A network cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 7, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

83. (Currently Amended) A network—cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 8, a mobile station and an end elementa support node.

84. (Currently Amended) A network cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 9, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

85. (Currently Amended) A network cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 10, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

86. (Currently Amended) A network—cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 11, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

87. (Currently Amended) A <u>cellular communications network</u>, network comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 12, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

88. (Currently Amended) A <u>cellular communications network</u>, network comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 13, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

89. (Currently Amended) A <u>cellular communications network, network</u> comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 14, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

90. (Currently Amended) A <u>cellular communications network, network</u> comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 15, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

91. (Currently Amended) A <u>cellular communications network</u>, network comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 16, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

92. (Currently Amended) A <u>cellular communications network</u>, network comprising:

an apparatus network element as claimed in claim 17, a mobile station and an end element a support node.

93-95. (Cancelled)

96. (Currently Amended) The network cellular communications network as claimed in claim 21, wherein said network cellular communications network operates in accordance with a universal mobile telecommunication systems standard. the UMTS Standard.

97. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one of a state of the mobile station, movement of the mobile station, or the an amount of communications between the mobile station and the a radio network controller.

98. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, radio network controller comprising:

a processor configured to monitor at least one parameter of a connection established between a mobile station and a <u>support node end element</u> and to determine if the connection between said <u>support node end element</u> and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter,

wherein the radio network controller apparatus is implemented in a cellular communication network, and

wherein said radio network controllerapparatus is being configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node element, wherein the connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said radio network controller.

99. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

establishing a connection between a mobile station and an end elementa support node in a cellular communications network through a radio network controller configured between the mobile station and the end element;

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monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the end element support node; and

determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said end elementsupport node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter.

100. (Currently Amended) The radio network controller apparatus of claim 98, wherein said end-element support node is a serving general packet radio service support node. Serving General Packet Radio Service Support Node (SGSN).

101. (Cancelled)

- 102. (Currently Amended) The network elementapparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network elementapparatus is <u>further</u> configured to release the connection between the <u>network elementapparatus</u> and said mobile station dependent solely on only one parameter monitored by said <u>monitoring unitmonitor</u>.
- 103. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 99, wherein said at least one parameter comprises user activity, and determining releasing said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time.

104. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 103, further comprising:

releasing the connection dependent solely on the user activity monitored by saida monitoring unit monitor.

105. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 99, wherein only one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the end elementsupport node is monitored and determining releasing the connection between thea network element and said mobile station dependent solely on the only one parameter monitored.

106. (New) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:
monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection
between a mobile station and a support node; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said means for monitoring, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring means indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time,

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

107. (New) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection
between a mobile station and an support node; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said support node sand said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means,

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

108. (New) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:
monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection
between a mobile station and an support node; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means,

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

109. (New) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and an support node; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means,

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

110. (New) A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions that, if executed by a computer, perform:

establishing a connection between a mobile station and an support node in a communication network through a radio network controller;

monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node; and

determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter.

- 111. (New) The computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 110, wherein said at least one parameter comprises user activity, and determining releasing said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time.
- 112. (New) The computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 110, wherein the instructions, if executed by the computer, further perform:

releasing the connection dependent solely on the user activity monitored by a monitor.

113. (New) The computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 110, wherein only one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node is monitored and determining releasing the connection between a network element and said mobile station dependent solely on the only one parameter monitored.